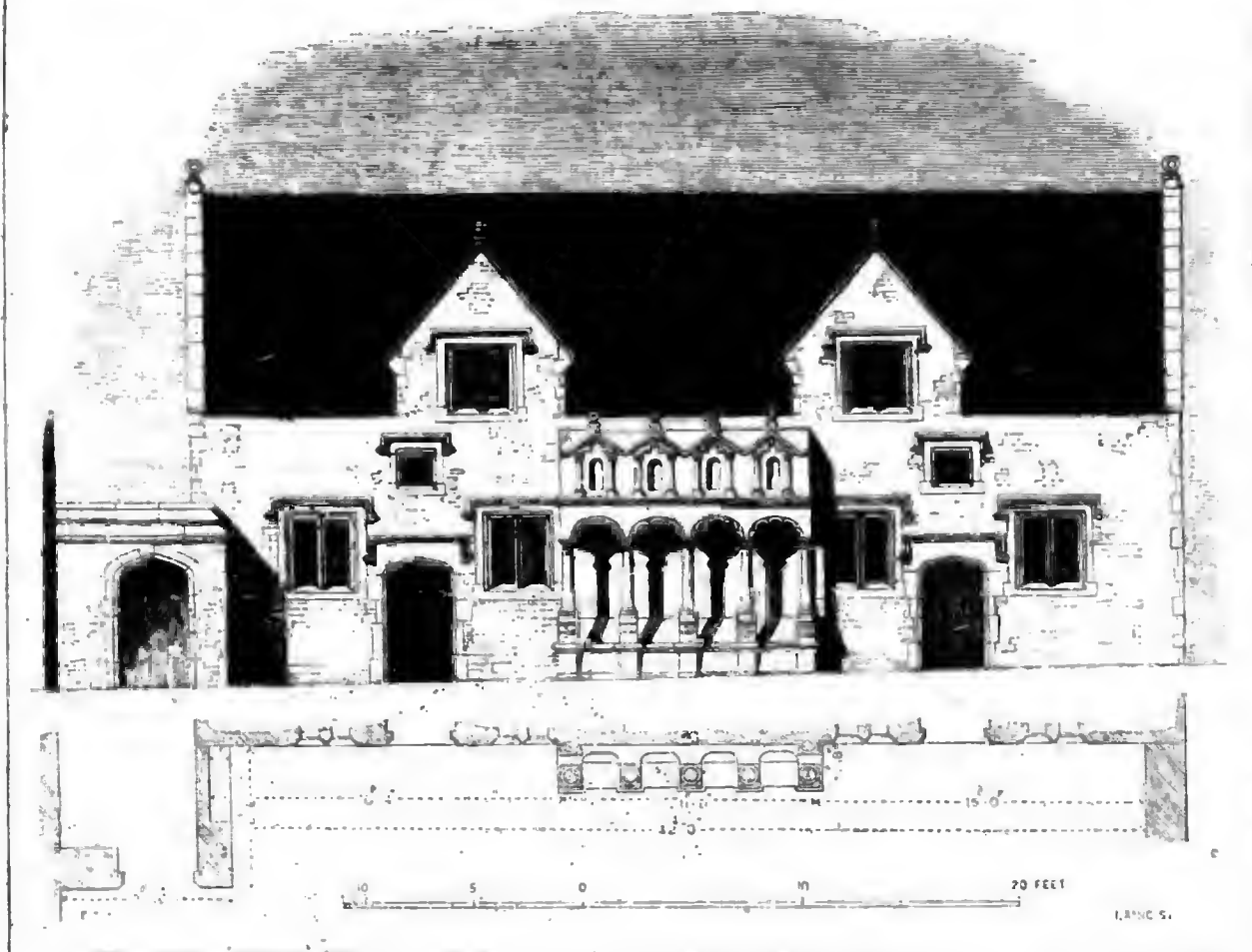


## BISHOP STILL'S ALMSHOUSES, WELLS.

[16TH CENTURY.]



it.—As to obtaining a legislative enactment, forbidding any to practice as architect or engineer without a diploma (concerning which some have written to us), this is by no means likely, even if it were in all respects desirable; the spirit of the time is directly opposed to such a restriction.—“T. Square,” who writes as to the “Soane Medallion,” is in error. Neither the prize so named nor the 50*l.* offered with it, was given by Sir John Soane;—it is simply so called by the Institute in honour of him and in return for a money bequest to the society. The premium of 50*l.* was first offered in connection with the Soane medallion in the year 1847,\* and was awarded in 1848 to Mr. Maclaren, of Edinburgh, who has not yet claimed the 50*l.*, which, however, he was informed, he would be entitled to at the end of one year’s absence from England, on sending a satisfactory evidence of his progress and his studies,—provided he did so within five years of the medal and premium being awarded to him. Since that time the Soane Medallion has not been awarded, nor consequently the 50*l.*; and we think we may safely say the council regretted as much as “T. Square” that the drawings submitted in competition for it were not up to their mark.

Another writer objects to the comparative terms in which the votes of thanks to parties who read papers were recorded last session. One, he says, was thanked “for his paper;” another for “his interesting paper;” a third for his statement, “which showed great knowledge, &c.,” a fourth for his “very important paper,” which “was not important at all;” and so on. We agree with him in considering that this course, probably fallen into through accident, is very objectionable. One form should be

adopted and adhered to. Opinions should not be given as those of the Institute, unless proposed to and formally accepted by the body.

As it is in contemplation to print after each meeting, in the coming session, a full synopsis of all communications, this observation is the more called for.

## BISHOP STILL'S ALMSHOUSES, WELLS.

THE almshouses at Wells were originally founded by Bishop Nicholas Bubwith, who was translated from the diocese of Sarum to that of Bath and Wells in 1407; and who, in addition to founding the almshouses that bear his name, contributed considerably towards the erection of the north-west tower of the cathedral, built the library over the eastern cloisters, and constructed a chantry chapel on the north side of the nave in the cathedral, immediately opposite that of Hugh Sugar, illustrations of which have already appeared in *THE BUILDER*. The almshouses erected by Bubwith remain nearly entire, and are interesting memorials of the period.

Bishop John Still, who was promoted by Queen Elizabeth to the see of Bath and Wells, in 1592-93, added the buildings represented in the accompanying engravings, southward of those erected by Bubwith. The details, it will be seen, are peculiar, and exhibit, quaintly enough, the transition from Gothic to classic architecture; the general effect of the whole is characteristic and picturesque.

Our engraving is from a drawing by Mr. Dollman, made originally for Mr. B. Ferrey, whom we have to thank for our knowledge of the building.

THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION will resume their meetings this (Friday) evening, at their rooms in Sackville-street.

## NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

A NEW gas company is in course of formation at Lincoln, ‘to supply gas on more favourable terms than those now offered by the existing company.’—Houses, it is said, are being built by wholesale at Boston. New streets are springing up in different parts of the town. The houses are generally small, and built for letting at about 7*l.* a-year, this class of houses being much wanted.—The shire-hall at Chelmsford has been repaired and altered so as to afford more accommodation, and the old petty sessions-room is being converted into 32 cells, for prisoners before trial.

—Some property in East-street, Point, Portsmouth, has been sold of late, at an advance of 75 per cent. on its value a few years since, or equal to what it yielded during the war in 1805.—The inhabitants of Dudley propose to sell the four workhouses of the Dudley Union, and erect one new edifice for the whole Union in a healthy situation, near Dudley.—The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol has subscribed 200*l.* towards the erection of a national school in the hamlet of Fishponds, parish of Stapleton.—The new Lunatic Asylum for Monmouth, Messrs. Fulljames and Waller, architects, will, it is expected, have its four wings roofed in before winter. The sum of 7,864*l.* adds had been expended down to 29th ult., and 3,000*l.* more will be laid out on it before 5th December.—The propriety of erecting a building at Birmingham, says the local *Journal*, suitable for concerts and assemblies, smaller and more manageable than the Town-hall, and more accessible than any other room in the town, has again been under consideration. The building is proposed to be erected in New-street by a Company holding shares of 5*l.* each.—The Leicester Improvement Committee having purchased all the buildings to be demolished for the enlargement and improvement of the market-place, now recommend the erection of a Corn Exchange, with butter

\* The first time the premium of 50*l.* was offered was in 1846, to be awarded to the successful competitor of the Royal gold medal; but the drawings received in competition not being satisfactory, neither was awarded; and in the subsequent year, the change being made in the regulations respecting the gold medal, the council put the offer of the additional 50*l.* in conjunction with the Soane medallion.